

(iii) *Remarks On The Amendment To The Claims:*

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 with the exception that the amended claim is limited not only to the exact probing nucleobase sequences but also to the complements of those sequences. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. It is believed that claim 1 is now allowable. Because claims 4-9 depend from claim 1, it is believed that these claims are allowable.

Though Applicants take notice of the arguments of the Examiner in the Office Action, it is submitted that chromosomes are double stranded. Therefore, if a probe sequence targets one of the two strands of the chromosome and has been found to be effective, it is submitted that the complement to that probe would merely bind to the opposite strand in exactly the same location on the chromosome. Accordingly, even if the Examiner believes that there is insufficient basis in the specification to believe that Applicants are not in possession of sequence variations on the many different probe sequences, it is submitted that there is no basis to believe that the complement to each of the identified probe sequences would not be as effective as the identified probe sequences themselves.

Claim 10 has been amended to delete preamble text that has no patentable weight. Claim 10 has also been amended and to incorporate the limitations of claims 11 and 12, with the exception that the amended claim is limited not only to the exact probing nucleobase sequences (see prior claim 12) but also to the complements of those sequences. Claims 11 and 12 have accordingly been canceled. The dependency of claim 13 has been changed in view of the cancellation of claim 11.

Claim 21 has been amended so that it contains limitations similar to those of claims 1 and 10. Claims 22 and 23 have been canceled. The dependency of claims 29 to 31 has been changed as a result of the cancellation of claim 23. In view of the amendment, it is believed that claim 21 and claims 29-33 are allowable.

Claim 35 has been amended to delete preamble text that has no patentable weight. Claim 35 has also been amended so that it contains limitations similar to those of claims 1 and 10. It is therefore believed that claim 35 is allowable.

Claim 36 has been amended to delete preamble text that has no patentable weight. Claim 36 has also been amended so that it contains limitations similar to those

of claims 1 and 10. Dependent claims 37 and 41 have been amended as requested by the Examiner. It is therefore believed that claim 36 and claims 37-43 are allowable.

Claim 44 has been canceled.

Claim 45 has been amended so that it contains limitations similar to those of claims 1 and 10. It is therefore believed that claim 45 is allowable.

It is believed that no new matter has been added.